

monomethylaluminum hydride (MMAH), dimethylethylalane (DMEAH1), and dimethylethylamide (DMEHA2).

41. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the aluminum film has a grain size of approximately 0.25 microns.

42. (New) A method of fabricating an interconnect supported by a semiconductor structure in a chemical vapor deposition reaction chamber, comprising:

flowing a first titanium-containing precursor in the chemical vapor deposition reaction chamber;

flowing nitrogen in the chemical vapor deposition reaction chamber simultaneously and flowing the titanium-containing precursor to form a first layer of titanium nitride on the semiconductor structure;

flowing a second titanium-containing precursor in the chemical vapor deposition reaction chamber;

flowing at least one gas selected from the group consisting of ammonia and nitrogen trifluoride in the chemical vapor deposition reaction chamber simultaneously with flowing the second titanium-containing precursor to form a second layer of titanium nitride on the first layer of titanium nitride; and

flowing an aluminum-containing precursor in the chemical vapor deposition reaction chamber to form an aluminum film having a small grain size on the second layer of the titanium nitride.

43. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the aluminum film has a grain size of approximately 0.25 microns.

44. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the aluminum film has a grain size of less than 0.25 microns.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Serial Number: 09:782,441

Filing Date: February 13, 2001

Title: SMALL GRAIN SIZE, CONFORMAL ALUMINUM INTERCONNECTS AND METHOD FOR THEIR FORMATION

Page 3

Dkt: 303,261US2

45. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the aluminum film grains have a polycrystalline orientation.
46. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising forming a titanium silicide layer on the semiconductor structure prior to flowing the first titanium-containing precursor.
47. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the first and second titanium-containing precursors are selected from the group consisting of: titanium tetrachloride, tetrakisdimethylamido titanium and trimethylethylenediamino titanium.
48. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the aluminum-containing precursor is selected from the group consisting of: trimethylaluminum (TMA), dimethylaluminum hydride (DMAH), triisobutylaluminum (TIBA), triethylaluminum (TEA), diethylaluminum hydride (DEAH), monomethylaluminum hydride (MMAH), dimethylethylalane (DMEHA1) and dimethylethylamide (DMEHA2).
49. (New) A method for fabricating an interconnect supported by a semiconductor structure, comprising:
- forming a layer of titanium silicide on the semiconductor structure;
 - forming a first layer of titanium nitride on the layer of titanium silicide;
 - forming a second layer of titanium nitride on the first layer of titanium nitride; and
 - forming an aluminum film on the second layer of titanium nitride, wherein the aluminum film has a small grain size.
50. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the grain size is less than 25 microns.
51. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein aluminum film grains have a polycrystalline orientation.

52. (New) A method for forming a transistor with an interconnect via, defined by a surface substantially free of voids, comprising:

etching an interconnect into silicon oxide or borophosphosilicate glass to define a

semiconductor structure defining an interconnect via comprising an active region of a transistor;

exposing the semiconductor structure to a titanium-containing precursor gas flow at a rate of 10 to 100 sccm and nitrogen gas at a flowrate of 10 to 1000 sccm and forming a titanium nitride film on the semiconductor structure;

exposing the semiconductor structure with the titanium nitride film to a titanium-containing precursor gas and to ammonia or nitrogen trifluoride gas at a flowrate of 10 to 1000 sccm and forming a second titanium nitride film having a polycrystalline orientation; and

exposing the semiconductor structure with the second titanium nitride film having a polycrystalline orientation to an aluminum-containing organometallic precursor to form an aluminum interconnect.

53. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the via formed has a high aspect ratio.

54. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the aspect ratio that is greater than about 5:1.

55. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the aspect ratio is about 8:1.

56. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the thickness of the titanium nitride film is about 100 to 200 angstroms for a 0.25 micron interconnect via.

57. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the aluminum-containing organometallic precursor is selected from the group consisting of trimethylaluminum, dimethylaluminum hydride, triisobutylaluminum, triethylaluminum, diethylaluminum hydride, monomethylaluminum hydride, dimethylethylaminealane, and dimethylethylamide.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Serial Number: 09 782,441

Filing Date: February 13, 2001

Title: SMALL GRAIN SIZE, CONFORMAL ALUMINUM INTERCONNECTS AND METHOD FOR THEIR FORMATION

Page 5

Dkt: 303.261US2

58. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the thickness of the aluminum is about 2000 to 3000 angstroms.

Claims 10-16 and 37-58 are now pending in this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-signed attorney with any questions regarding the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

WING-CHEONG GILBERT LAI ET AL.

By their Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 373-6976

Date 29 May 01

By

Janal M. Kalis

Janal M. Kalis

Reg. No. 37,650

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 29 day of May, 2001.

Name

Tina Pygh

Signature

[Signature]